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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/786,918	02/25/2004	Jean-Yves Coillard-Lavirotte	52022/TJD/M881	4980
23363	7590	11/02/2005	EXAMINER	
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP			KIM, JOHN	
PO BOX 7068			ART UNIT	
PASADENA, CA 91109-7068			PAPER NUMBER	
			3733	

DATE MAILED: 11/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/786,918

Applicant(s)

COILLARD-LAVIROTTE ET AL.

Examiner

John Kim

Art Unit

3733

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/14/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Specification***

Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the language of the abstract is in claim format rather than narrative format. For instance, the abstract includes the words "said plate." Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The various sections of the specification should be preceded by their respective headings.

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Objections***

Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: Applicant uses both "miniplate" and "plate." In order to be consistent, applicant needs to change "plate" to "miniplate." Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1, 3, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the widest proximal end" in lines 5-6. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 3 recites the limitation "the hole intended for the adjacent attachment screw" in lines 2-3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 3 recites the limitation "the widest proximal part" in line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 3 recites the limitation "the same transverse axis of the phalange" in lines 5-6. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 8 recites the limitation "the frontal and distal anatomic profiles" in lines 2-3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 3 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because they are drawn to non-statutory subject matter. In claims 3 and 9, lines 4-5, applicant positively recites part of a human body in combination with the structure of the claimed invention, i.e. "are positioned approximately on the same transverse axis of the phalange." It has been held that a claim directed to or including within its scope a human being will not be considered to be patentable subject matter under 35 USC 101. The grant of a limited, but exclusive property right in a human being is prohibited by the Constitution. *In re Wakefield*, 422 F.2d 897, 164 USPQ 636 (CCPA 1970). Applicant needs to clearly state using inferential language that the human anatomy is not claimed.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 5, 9, 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Berentey et al. (US Pat 4,651,724 March 24, 1987).

In regards to claim 1-3 and 9, Berentey teaches of having a bone joining plate with an claw that is adjacent to the holes for bone screws. "The plates can be produced in different lengths and with different number of holes for handling the various fractures." (col 1 line 68 – col 2 line 1) The invention is "provided having an oblong plate curved according to the bone surface, where at least two holes are arranged along the longitudinal axis and at least three pointed claws bent from the material of the plate are arranged at one of its ends." (col 1 lines 42-46). Furthermore "holes may be circular or oval shaped, the latter one allows the excentric arrangement of screws, whereby

Art Unit: 3733

compression may be applied to the fractured surfaces.” (col 1 lines 50-53) In regards to claims 5 and 10-12, Berentey draws the plate to be a single-piece part. He also teaches the claws to be “perpendicular to the plate.” (col 4 lines 61)

Furthermore, with regards to claim 5 and 10-12, it is noted that the invention of Berentey, et al. appears to be substantially identical to the device claimed, although produce by a different process, therefore the burden is upon the applicant to come forward with evidence establishing an unobvious difference between the two. In re Marosi, 218 USPQ 289 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berentey et al. (US Pat 4,651,724 March 24, 1987) in view of Bailey (US Pat 5,607,430 March 4 1997). Berentey discloses a plate with anchor/stud used with a screw passing through a compression hole. Berentey does not disclose the material used for the plate. However, Bailey discloses the plate made from “a single solid piece of implantable metallic surgical alloy, such as stainless steel, titanium alloy...” (col 3 lines 60-63). It would have been obvious to one skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to manufacture the bone plate of Berentey in view of Bailey with metallic surgical alloy such as stainless steel and titanium alloy. Furthermore, Berentey discloses the claimed

Art Unit: 3733

invention except for the material of the bone plate. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the bone plate of either titanium or stainless steel, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. In re Leshin, 125 USPQ 416.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Furthermore, claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892 for art cited of interest.

Art Unit: 3733


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Kim whose telephone number is (571) 272-2817.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached on (571) 272-4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JK



EDUARDO C. ROBERT  
PRIMARY EXAMINER